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Period 5

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**Development of Fermina Daza**

Beginning: “…[Fermina Daza] felt free for the first time, her lungs full of the air of

liberty…[and] one night she came back from her daily walk stunned by the revelation

that one could be happy not only without love, but despite it.” (Marquez pp.87)

In this quote, Fermina reflects on how she perceives her loss of Florentino Ariza as liberating. When Fermina and Florentino fall in love, Fermina was a mere eighteen. Florentino was the first man who had ever taken interest in her, up to this point in her life. Because Fermina is young and inexperienced in having a suitor, she quickly falls in love with Florentino. When her father, Lorento, opposes his daughters appeal toward Florentino, he removes her out of town where she begins to believe that the love she shared with Florentino was “an illusion.” This revelation develops the maturity within Fermina as she contemplates whether Florentino will provide a stable future for her and whether she is truly in love with him.

Middle: “ The truth is that Dr. Juvenal Urbino’s suit had never been undertaken in the name of love, and it was curious, to say the least, that a militant Catholic like him would only offer [Fermina Daza] worldly goods :security, order, happiness, contiguous numbers that, once they were added together, might resemble love…” (Marquez pp.205)

Again, in this quote, the character of Fermina develops by making the decision to marry for a secure future. When Fermina marries Dr. Urbino, she does not love him nor does he love her. Fermina makes the decision to marry Dr. Urbino because he holds a stable career as a physician and she is certain that Dr. Urbino will offer her happiness by providing her with material items such as a house and financial support. Fermina questions the meaning of love and whether it is important in her life. She believes that she could live her life without loving a man which is partially the reason she decides to marry Dr. Urbino – despite the fact that they did not love each other. She knows that if she didn’t marry Dr. Urbino she would become too old to marry – possibly leaving her destitute on the streets. Therefore, Fermina comes to figure out what she believes are the most important aspects in her life. She chooses that path that she believes would be most beneficial in the long run.

End: “A century ago, life screwed that poor man and me because we were too young, and now they want to do the same thing because we are too old.” (Marquez pp.323)

This quote reflects another major turning point within Fermina’s life. When Dr. Urbino passes away and Florentino Ariza proclaims his undying love for Fermina, she discovers that she has always loved Florentino, but at the time she was too young to realize it. Now that she is free of her husband, Fermina can be with Florentino at last. Because Fermina comprehends that she had made a mistake when she was young (believing that her love with Florentino was an illusion), Fermina’s character evolves yet again. In addition, Fermina decides that she will not allow life to “screw” her over again while she is of old age. At last, Fermina has made the choice to be with her one true love, even though she is of old age.